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Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 157: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (A/63/758 and A/63/780)

1. **Ms. Vendat** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/758), said that the resources needed to support AMISOM were estimated at $80,906,900 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009, inclusive of the amount of $50,000,000 previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to meet the costs related to the provision of a logistical support package to AMISOM. The estimated requirements provided for the deployment of 243 United Nations personnel, comprising 184 international and 59 national staff, in support of an authorized strength of 8,000 military contingent personnel and 270 police officers of AMISOM and the provision of a logistical support package, including equipment and services.

2. The Assembly was requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of $80,906,900, inclusive of the amount of $50,000,000 previously authorized by the Advisory Committee, which comprised the amount of $2,149,000 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008 and the amount of $47,851,000 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 as well as to assess the amount of $2,149,000 for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2008 and the amount of $78,757,900 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

3. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) said that the Secretary-General's proposed package would help achieve the full deployment of AMISOM troops and, bridge the current gap, with a view to subsequent transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, should the Security Council so decide. The comprehensive package provided for logistical support through a new support office headquartered in Nairobi and supervised by the Department of Field Support; troop cost reimbursement and the possible procurement of equipment through a voluntarily funded trust fund that had already been established; and the strengthening of Somali security forces, which was also to be financed through a tr fund.

4. The support office in Nairobi would serve as main base for the provision of logistical support AMISOM. Although the Organization was currently able to establish a physical presence Mogadishu, the Department of Field Support would working hard to resolve that issue, with a view establishing a "light footprint" in the Somali cap when security conditions permitted, since at leas minimum presence would be required in Mogadishu provide oversight and ensure compliance with Uni Nations standards, rules and regulations. memorandum of understanding was also to be sig between the United Nations and the African Union order to establish minimum requirements for relationship between the two entities and ensure transparent use of United Nations resources. In the f few months, until the United Nations had completed own procurement process, a bridging arrangement the form of a letter of assist with one Member St would be needed in order to provide a basic lifeline AMISOM to continue its work. The proposed supp package was in compliance with United Nati standards.

5. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advis Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions), introducing the Advisory Committe related report (A/63/780), recalled that the Secu Council had requested the Secretary-General to prov a logistical support package to AMISOM to be fun by a trust fund until a United Nations peacekeep operation was deployed. The Advisory Committee been informed, upon enquiry, that the trust fund been established and that one Government was in process of contributing resources to it.

6. According to the Secretary-General, the provis of support to AMISOM would break new ground the United Nations. In order to coordinate the deliv of the support package, the Secretary-General proposing the establishment of a new support office AMISOM, headquartered at the United Nations Of at Nairobi. The Advisory Committee encouraged Secretary-General to take full advantage of facilities and services available at that Office. stressed the importance of close cooperation betw the two entities and trusted that more deta information on the relevant arrangements would provided in a future submission. The Advis

Committee had been informed that AMISOM was currently being supported by a Member State, by way of that Member State's own multifunctional logistics contract with a commercial vendor and that discussions were under way with the Member State regarding continued support to AMISOM until the United Nations could complete its own procurement process.

7. The Advisory Committee reiterated the importance of maintaining the integrity of the procurement process and expected that relevant United Nations regulations and rules would be fully observed. On the related issue of accountability for United Nations supplies, services and equipment provided to AMISOM, the Advisory Committee stressed the need for the earliest possible conclusion of the memorandum of understanding between the Organization and the African Union. A detailed description of the "remote" management and accountability mechanisms that the Secretary-General intended to develop should also be provided in a future submission.

8. With regard to the resources sought by the Secretary-General, a detailed breakdown of projected expenditures and an adequate account of expenses already incurred should be provided in a future submission. With regard to human resources, the Advisory Committee cautioned against the development of a top-heavy staffing structure and stressed that all human resources requested by the Secretary-General must be fully justified, on the basis of need, in a future submission. With the establishment of the new support office, future submissions should also provide an integrated presentation of all the resources required for planning activities in order to avoid duplication of functions.

9. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009 in the amount of $80,906,900 and that the Assembly should approve assessment of that amount. However, its recommendation in no way prejudged the position that it might take on the structure, number and level of posts or on other resources intended for the provision of support for AMISOM or a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

10. **Ms. Krahulcová** (Czech Republic), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Montenegro; and, in addition, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union attached great importance to the increasingly strong partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and appreciated the recent key efforts of the African Union in the area of peace and security, including the deployment of peace support operations and the African Peace and Security Architecture. The Union was strongly committed to the success of ANISOM and was a significant contributor to the Mission's budget.

11. The Secretary-General's proposal represented a pragmatic way forward in a situation where the Security Council had identified a strong strategic interest for the United Nations in supporting a mission deployed by one of its key partners. In that context, the European Union was ready to provide assessed funding for the support package. The Union would of course seek clarification and further information on such issues as accountability, the size and scope of the package, interrelationships and the institutional framework. It also wished to examine closely the staffing proposals and deployment assumptions, while considering the budget level. It was ready to work with its partners to agree on a draft resolution in the limited time available.

12. **Mr.** Adou Mohamed **Ali** (Djibouti), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group supported the Secretary-General's proposals and his request for commitment authority in the amount of $80,906,900 for the financing of AMISOM. The funding proposal broke new ground in terms of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization engaged in peacekeeping activities on behalf of the United Nations. In view of the logistical challenges that had led to delays in the full deployment of AMISOM, the Group fully agreed with the need to provide a logistical support package to the Mission to help it achieve its envisaged troop strength and set the stage for the possible establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. The proposed package would have a positive impact on the security and political climate in Somalia. The Group also welcomed the recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report (A/63/780). It commended the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for providing troops to the Mission, as well as those countries that had indicated their willingness to do so.

It also paid tribute to the peacekeepers, who continued to play a critical role in peace support activities in various parts of the world.

13. **Mr. Yoseph** (Ethiopia) recalled that Ethiopian National Defence Forces had entered Somalia two years previously to combat the threat posed by extremist forces and help the people of Somalia restore peace and stability to their country. To that end, his Government had repeatedly called on the international community to discharge its duty by supporting AMISOM and subsequently transforming it into a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) was a welcome, although late, response to that call.

14. His delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal and the Advisory Committee's recommendations for the financing of support for AMISOM. The proposed package must now be delivered in an effective and efficient manner. His delegation welcomed the emphasis placed on the establishment of, and coordination between, support offices, logistics hubs and points of liaison. Further opportunities and facilities should be explored in the countries of the subregion to help strengthen AMISOM and speed up the process of establishing a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. Issues related to the rules and regulations governing staffing and procurement should be addressed in informal consultations.

15. His delegation urged the Committee to approve the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority, since any delay in financing AMISOM and establishing a United Nations peacekeeping operation would have serious consequences not only in Somalia but throughout the region.

16. **Mr. Mukai** (Japan) said that the relevant rules and procedures should apply to the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority. Logistics support for AMISOM would present a number of challenges in ensuring the transparent and effective use of United Nations resources and his delegation therefore concurred with the Advisory Committee that a memorandum of understanding should be concluded as early as possible between the United Nations and the African Union in order to set out the necessary accountability mechanisms and internal control procedures.

17. The staffing structure of the proposed support office was top-heavy and the template approach for providing logistics support for peacekeeping operations should be avoided. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee's observations on the Secretary-General's staffing assumptions and agreed that the 204 posts proposed should be established as temporary position until such a time as a fully justified budget was presented to the General Assembly.

18. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern about the possible duplication of functions between the existing planning teams in New York and Addis Ababa on the one hand, and the proposed new support office on the other. The Secretary-General should integrate some of the functions of the two planning teams into the staffing structure of the support office in his next budget submission. His delegation looked forward to receiving from the Secretary-General a detailed and realistic assessment of the security and political situation on the ground in Somalia and expected that the budget submission for the biennium 2009-2010 would make the necessary refinements to the planning assumptions for the support office. That assessment should provide the basis for the 2009 UNPOS budget submission. Future submissions would provide an integrated presentation of all the resources required for planning activities.

19. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that the Secretary-General's proposals bore witness to his desire to strengthen cooperation in peacekeeping matters between the United Nations and the African Union. Burundi had contributed troops to AMISOM and wished to express some concerns about the Mission. The military equipment provided to AMISOM was rudimentary, obsolete and ill-suited to defend against the daily attacks by enemy forces. The Mission's troop strength was woefully inadequate to cover the entire country and to counter enemy threats. There were only four battalions on the ground, two provided by Burundi and two by Uganda, as against an authorized strength of 8,000 military personnel. The Secretary-General should call upon those States that had pledged troops to honour their commitments, since the human cost of peacekeeping operations must be shared by the international community. His delegation believed that the very mandate of AMISOM, which consisted of supporting a peace that did not yet exist, should be re-evaluated and redefined to ensure the Mission's success. Financial and logistical support from the

United Nations was essential in order to address those concerns and he hoped that the Committee would support the Secretary-General's proposals in that area.

20. Burundi would continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Somali people, and was prepared to deploy a third battalion to further strengthen AMISOM, provided that there was a marked improvement in the working conditions of its troops on the ground. If the conditions remained precarious, instability could spread to the entire Horn of Africa, resulting in a failure of the international community and a perceived victory for enemy groups. Pending the Secretary-General's next report on AMISOM and the Security Council resolution expected on 1 June, AMISOM remained in need of urgent support.

21. **Mr. Ren** Yisheng (China) said that China supported the peace process in Somalia and believed that the persistence of the problem would threaten international peace and security. China highly appreciated the efforts of the African Union to promote peace and, in particular, the outstanding work carried out by AMISOM under extremely difficult conditions. His Government would support the United Nations in providing a logistical support package to AMISOM and creating the conditions for the Mission's troops to be incorporated into a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

22. The Secretary-General's report pointed out that the uncertainty of the security situation and the increasing numbers of AMISOM troops would result in new challenges, which would require corresponding support staff. His delegation was therefore pleased that the Secretary-General had put forward planning assumptions and support initiatives and had given his assurances that transparency and effectiveness would be ensured in the use of United Nations resources. It also welcomed the fact that a memorandum of understanding would be signed between the United Nations and the African Union to establish the modalities of accountability for United Nations supplies, and that options would be identified for shared support arrangements between AMISOM and other United Nations offices and missions in close proximity. Such measures would strengthen coordination and help ensure the full utilization of resources. The Secretariat should provide further details on the challenges arising from the provision of logistical support; the structure of United Nations support; and the standards, rules and regulations in force for United Nations procurement.

23. **Mr. Rugunda** (Uganda) said that the security situation in Somalia had long been a matter of concern for the region and the international community. The absence of a strong central authority had led to the collapse of law and order and the proliferation of militant groups. Most recently, piracy had emerged as the most visible consequence of the lack of an effective government in Somalia and had led to a disruption of international trade.

24. His delegation welcomed the national and international efforts being made to address the situation. The recent formation of the Transitional Federal Government and its relocation to Mogadishu were positive developments that would hopefully lead to stability, dialogue and unity among all armed opposition groups. The engagement of the international community was welcome and should be maintained.

25. The original mandate of AMISOM had included providing protection to the Transitional Federal Institutions to help them carry out their functions of government, and security for key infrastructure, thereby helping to create the conditions for peace and stability. It was therefore a matter of concern that AMISOM had yet to be fully deployed. Arrangements were under way to deploy a third battalion from Uganda, and consultations for a third from Burundi were ongoing. However, countries that had made pledges to contribute troops should do so at the earliest opportunity. While the security situation and related logistical issues might cause hesitation, the presence of troops from Burundi and Uganda showed clearly that peacemaking and peacekeeping could play a complementary role and that it was important not to wait until security reached the desired level before deploying the requisite troop strength.

26. Uganda was encouraged that the international community had renewed its commitment to addressing the issue. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) constituted a landmark in that it authorized a United Nations logistical support package to AMISOM. Uganda welcomed the Security Council's intent to establish a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council by 1 June 2009. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's report outlining the initial

logistical support package. The situation on the ground remained difficult and the continued expansion of AMISOM would depend on a commitment to improved and continued logistics support. All delegations should therefore support the package proposed by the Secretary-General. The fact that UNPOS was still located outside Mogadishu and that the proposed logistics support office would operate from Nairobi was a clear reminder of the work that lay ahead, to make Somalia secure for Somalis and for the international community.

27. **Mr. Trayystman** (United States of America) said that the international community must support AMISOM in helping the Somali people achieve peace and reconciliation. AMISOM provided the necessary security for that process to continue and allowed important access to humanitarian operations. The United States was the largest humanitarian donor to Somalia and had provided over $427 million in food and other assistance since 2007. It had also provided over $120 million in logistical and other support to AMISOM over the previous two years and was committed to continuing that support.

28. A number of positive developments over the previous few weeks had resulted in an unprecedented coalescing of Somali political forces. In response, negative forces were seeking to undermine the peace process and the security situation remained tenuous. The AMISOM troops from Burundi and Uganda were doing crucial work in securing key infrastructure and allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid. The United States supported the Security Council's decision, contained in resolution 1863 (2009), to strengthen support for AMISOM.

29. His delegation looked forward to the Committee recommending authorization of the funds requested by the Secretary-General to ensure that the progress made was not reversed and that the path to peace and stability could be strengthened. It supported the Council's request to establish a trust fund to provide financial support to AMISOM and to assist in the re-establishment, training and retention of all-inclusive Somali security forces. While the United States of America would not be contributing to that fund, it would continue to provide direct support to AMISOM and security sector reform in Somalia. His delegation encouraged other States to do likewise.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.